

WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus comprising:

(a) a substrate including a level intermediate region disposed between a first end region and a second end region;

(b) a first external member disposed circumferentially around the first end region in a continuous manner and protruding above the level intermediate region, thereby resulting in a deposition region including the surface of the first external member covering the first end region, an optional exposed first end region portion, and the intermediate region; and

(c) a dip coated layer over the entire deposition region, wherein the portion of the dip coated layer over the first external member and the optional exposed first end region portion is formed prior to the portion of the dip coated layer over the intermediate layer.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein there is absent a fastener joining the first external member to the first end region.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fastener to couple the first external member to the first end region.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate is a cylinder.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate includes an uncoated region.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first external member extends into the uncoated region.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first external member protrudes above the level intermediate region by a value ranging from about 10 micrometers to about 10 mm .

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first external member is an elastic band.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first external member is a wire.

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3 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first external member has a level top
4 surface.

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6 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the dip coated layer comprises a charge
7 transport material.

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9 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portion of the dip coated layer over
10 the intermediate region has a substantially uniform thickness.

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12 13. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second external member
13 disposed circumferentially around the second end region in a continuous manner and
14 protruding above the level intermediate region, and the deposition region includes the
15 surface of the second external member covering the second end region and an optional
16 exposed second end region portion.

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18 14. An apparatus comprising:

19 (a) a substrate defining a longitudinal axis and including a level intermediate
20 region disposed between a first end region and a second end region;

21 (b) a plurality of external members, each of the external members protruding
22 above the level intermediate region and disposed only partially around the first end
23 region, wherein the plurality of the external members, when viewed at a substrate end
24 view, collectively extend circumferentially around the first end region in a continuous
25 manner, thereby resulting in a deposition region including the surfaces of the external
26 members covering the first end region, an optional exposed first end region portion,
27 and the intermediate region; and

28 (c) a dip coated layer over the entire deposition region, wherein the portion of
29 the dip coated layer over the external members and the optional exposed first end
30 region portion is formed prior to the portion of the dip coated layer over the
31 intermediate layer.

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33 15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of the external members
34 ranges in number from 2 to 5.

1 16. A coating method comprising:
2 (a) providing an apparatus including:
3 (i) a substrate including a level intermediate region disposed between a first end
4 region and a second end region;
5 (ii) a first external member disposed circumferentially around the first end
6 region in a continuous manner and protruding above the level intermediate region,
7 thereby resulting in a deposition region including the surface of the first external
8 member covering the first end region, an optional exposed first end region portion, and
9 the intermediate region; and
10 (b) dip coating a layer of a coating solution over the entire deposition region,
11 wherein the portion of the dip coated layer over the first external member and the
12 optional exposed first end region portion is formed prior to the portion of the dip
13 coated layer over the intermediate layer.

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15 17. The coating method of claim 16, further comprising leaving permanently in
16 place the first external member around the first end region subsequent to the dip
17 coating.

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19 18. The coating method of claim 16, wherein there is absent a fastener joining
20 the first external member to the first end region.

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22 19. The coating method of claim 16 wherein the apparatus further comprises a
23 fastener to couple the first external member to the first end region.
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